Activities of Housing and Urban Development Corporation

2170. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Housing and Urban Development Corporation is confined to cities and big towns; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend this scheme to the low income groups in small towns which come under urban area?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. As on 28.2.90 HUDCO has covered under its loan operations 897 towns most of which are of small and medium sized.

As per present guidelines, approved by the Central Government, 55 per cent of HUDCO funds are allocated for financing housing programmes for the economically weaker section and low income groups. 90 per cent of the dwelling units sanctioned under HUDCO loans are for the EWS and LIG beneficiaries.

Use of pheromones for crop pest management

2171. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of pheremones for crop pest management is an environmentally safe approach;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of pheromones have been found to be effective in monitoring pest intensity as well as trapping them to be destroyed eventually;

(c) whether it is also a fact that pheromones are of relatively simple molecular structure and it is easy to prepare these compounds with modern synthetic methods;

(d) whether Government have made any experiments for the use of pheromones for crop pest management; and

(e) if so, what is the result of such experiments?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No Sir, only specific isomers exhibit the requisite pheromonal effect. Synthesis of such isomers in the pure state is not always simple and economical.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The use of pheromone traps has been found useful for monitoring the emergence of cotton pink bollworm and spotted bollworms, American bollworm, tobacco caterpillar, codling moth and sugarcane stalk borer. The pheromones of cotton bolloworms, tobacco caterpillar, gram pod borer and codling moth have also been found useful in mass-trapping moths to reduce subsequent egg and larval population in the crop.

Allotment of rice to Andhra Pradesh

2172. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh procure a total of 30 lakh tonnes of rice for the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested to allot the entire State's requirement of 25 lakh tonnes of rice for the public distribution system; and

(c) if so, whether Government have accepted the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had proposed in February, 1990 that during the current rice year the State Government may be allotted 25 lakh tonnes of rice required by them under Public Distribution System on the condition that the State Govern-